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CIA OPERATIONS CENTER
AFTERNOON SUMMARY OF NEWS HIGHLIGHTS
18 September 1978

Media

CAMP DAVID REACTIONS

1. United States: President Carter will address a joint session of Congress tonight at 8 pm EDT. The President was scheduled to meet this afternoon with Congressional leaders to review the Summit talks. Meanwhile, the Summit accords were drawing nearly unanimous, bipartisan praise from Capitol Hill. Former Secretary of State Kissinger also praised the Camp David agreements as a "major achievement," although he warned of the danger of backsliding. (AP)

2. Arab: In the Arab world, Syria and the PLO have denounced the summit agreements. A spokesman for Yasir Arafat complained that the accords ignored Palestinian rights to an independent state, while Syrian radio has reiterated President Asad's rejection-in-advance of any settlement that might emerge from Camp David. Meanwhile, the PLO, Syria, Algeria, Libya, and South Yemen are going ahead with plans to hold a summit conference of their own in Damascus on Wednesday.

   No official statements have been made thus far in Amman in response to the summit accords. The conservative oriented Jordanian daily Al Rai, however, noted that the agreements keep the door open between Egypt and Israel at the expense of deepening inter-Arab differences.

   Arabs on the occupied West Bank are divided on the outcome at Camp David. Pro PLOers reject the settlement, while pro-Jordanian types have responded positively.

   Reaction from Arab states in Persian Gulf has been sparse and cautious. No public reaction has been noted as yet from Saudi Arabia.

   Egyptian reaction to the outcome at Camp David has been enthusiastic, but many Egyptians are fearful of negative responses from other parts of the Arab world. Egyptian officials have been unavailable for comment on reports that Foreign Minister Kamel and others had resigned in disagreement over concessions made by President Sadat. (Various press ticker)

3. Soviet: The Soviets, in their first response to the Camp David accords, accuse President Sadat of a complete surrender to Israel. The Soviets see the end product of the Summit as an approval of Prime Minister Begin's plans for a Mideast peace settlement. (Reuter)

4. Israel: Initial reactions from both the population and politicians in Israel was, for the main, euphoric. The most favorable official reactions came from the peace groups and the opposition Labor Party. The most strident criticism came from hard-line members of Begin's own Likud Party. While reactions from such persons are harshly critical of the agreement,

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they are also very few and isolated in the overall joy and excitement with which last night's announcement was received in Israel.

Differences in interpretation as to what was actually agreed to have already arisen. Sunday night, "American officials" told reporters that Israel had committed itself to establish no new settlements in the West Bank area during the negotiations for Palestinian autonomy. The implication was that Israel would not expand existing settlements or create new ones. Begin later told Israeli reports that he had only promised to halt settlement activity during the period of actual "peace negotiations." "It is," he said, "inconceivable that we would give such a commitment for five years. We did not commit ourselves for the duration of the peace talks."

Another possible future sticking point is East Jerusalem. Begin said that it is Israel's unalterable position that Jerusalem will remain "inseparable forever as the capital of the state of Israel."

Begin told Israeli reporters that negotiations with Egypt will begin in exactly two weeks (on 2 October). He further said that the future of Israeli settlements in the Sinai would be decided by the Knesset. Party discipline will not be enforced in the vote on this question. All members of Parliament will "vote their conscience."

According to Begin, the US will build two new air bases for Israel in the Negev Desert. These new bases will be located on the original Egyptian-Israeli border. They are intended to provide Israel with the same strategic advantages currently offered by their bases in the Sinai. (Various press)

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

5. Nicaragua: The National Guard in Nicaragua is reportedly mopping up one of the last two centers of rebel resistence in northwest Nicaragua today, although Sandinista resistance is strong. In Managua, businessmen announced their determination to continue the general strike launched August 25 to force Somoza's resignation.

A commission from the OAS arrived in Costa Rica to investigate the charge that a Nicaraguan plane attacked a truck inside the Costa Rican border. Moreover, the OAS voted by a 23-1 margin to convene a hemispheric Foreign Ministers conference on the situation. The meeting is scheduled for Thursday September 21. (AP City, UPI)

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EUROPE/USSR

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6. French-West German Economic Talks: [redacted] confirmed that the Giscard-Schmidt talks at Aachen produced an accord on a parity grid plan for linking currencies--almost identical to the current European currency arrangement, or snake. Also agreed upon were an initial supply of European currency units (ECU) for use among central banks. These proposals were to be set forth before the EC foreign ministers meeting today in Brussels. (Dow Jones)

7. Turkey: Republican Party leader and Deputy Prime Minister Feyzioglu has unexpectedly resigned from the Ecevit government. Feyzioglu's resignation will not bring down the government, but his withdrawal will have a psychological impact because he is a highly respected politician. (FBIS)

LATE-BREAKING NEWS DEVELOPMENTS

Camp David Outcome

Jordan: President Carter today telephoned King Hussein in Amman. The King declined to comment on the Egyptian-Israeli agreement; he wants time to study it. The King cut short his vacation abroad to return to Amman following the Camp David agreement. Analysts see additional complications in the Israeli veto rights over the Palestinian participants in the West Bank negotiations. This right presumably precludes a PLO presence, which is also a roadblock to Jordanian participation. (UPI)

Israel: Prime Minister Begin told Israeli reporters that Israel intends to keep its own forces in the West Bank area even after the five-year transition period. (AP)

Jerusalem: "A senior American official" says that an exchange of letters Monday will show that the US position on the status of Jerusalem is unchanged: the US does not recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. (UPI)

USSR

Western diplomatic sources disclosed that a Soviet TU-144 is believed to have crashed during a test flight earlier this year. The sources hinted that signs of this crash showed up on US satellite reconnaissance photographs of Soviet territory. (Reuter)

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Late items (Cont'd)

Imants Vishinskys, a Latvian-born Soviet translator at the United Nations and a Major in the Soviet KGB defected to the US.with his wife and daughter and asked for political asylum, Latvian exile sources said today. Full details will be published in the Brooklyn-based Latvian-exile newspaper "Laiks" in the issue going to press tonight. Vishinskys and his family defected in Washington over the Labor Day weekend. The CIA now has them in a safehouse in the Virginia countryside. (UPI)

Ronald Humphrey, the USIA employee convicted of spying for Vietnam, was released from prison pending the outcome of an appeal which is expected to last at least two years. The judge who freed Humphrey placed no conditions on him, other than to direct him to appear in court if ordered to do so. (AP)

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